

Chapter 26: Brand New Skills!

I looked into my status as the guide spirit spoke to me quickly after, as always, he recommended me to spend the Stat Points into Mana so I could always have more "fuel" for any situation. Even using the Fishing Skill intensively used a bit of Mana, so that was actually a pretty smart idea. I never thought I would be min-maxing MP from all Stats but it made sense now that I thought about it.

"As always, spend the Stat Points into MP, that's the best course of action," said the Guide Spirit. "After reaching a certain level, probably after reaching your second Job Class, you could begin spending them in other stats... I guess. But MP never ceases to be useful and your other stats could increase more easily with crafted equipment."

"I see...! Then all to MP!"

Ding!

[You have exchanged 20 Stat Points for +40 MP!]

Ding!

[Due to having reached 500 MP in less than Level 10, you have acquired a new Title: [Apprentice Magician]!]

As I checked at my stats again, spending the 20 Stat Points gave +40 MP, so that was nice. And... what's this?! I gained a Title by just assigning my Stat Points into MP? Seriously? I was a magician? But my Job Class was Farmer... Oh well, let's check this out before moving on.

[Apprentice Magician]

Acquisition Conditions: Reach 500 MP before Level 10.

Equip Bonus: +100 MP, +40 INT, +40 WIS

A Title given to an Apprentice Magician whose Stat Points have been proactively assigned into MP! You have reached a quantity of MP that not many players have reached at this stage, as an Apprentice Magician, your journey as a mage is just starting!

Wow, wasn't this title pretty good though? Although Big Game Slayer gave a nice bonus to all stats, this one was more specialized in Magic! And then there were the other Titles about Cooking and Fishing, but I could freely switch between Titles depending on what stat gain I need, they're like equipment in that regard, but easily given out instead of having to craft them by hand, which seemed hard for me at the moment.

"Every time you Evolve you could equip another Title," said the Guide. "So hoarding a lot of Titles by doing different types of achievements is recommended."

"What? So I could equip two Titles when I evolve?!" I asked in surprise.

"Yes, every time you evolve you change! Your existence becomes greater and you can use more of the power from your Race as it develops its true roots. You know, they said that every Race descends from a God, actually, and your own race is created by Gaia, the Goddess of Life and Souls, every time you evolve you develop more of those roots. It is the same for every other Race," said the Guide Spirit. "Because your existence becomes "greater" you could equip more Titles, gaining a Title Slot with each evolution."

"I-I see...! But how many evolutions are out there?" I wondered.

"Well, a lot! I couldn't really tell you all of them, and each Evolution has prerequisites and are attached to quests, the same for Job Classes, so make sure to always pay attention to NPC! Well, at least the Tree of Beginnings, he's the one that handles our quests," said the Guide Spirit.

"I understand..."

It seemed that to evolve into a stronger Species or even upgrading my Job Class required interaction with NPC and to unlock different quests as well. How interesting...

Well, for now I should use my Skill Points into some new Skills, or probably upgrade my other Skills in the process? I mean, I think I got enough MP for them, although I didn't know if the Level 3 Green Magic Spells could be

conjured leisurely, most of them were very costly to make any effect at all...
Let's check the Skill Tree again first.

[Skill Tree: Dryad]

[Plant Synthesis: Lv0]

[Life Drain: Lv0] PICKED

[Spirit Magic: Lv0]

[Natural Charm: Lv0]

[Daughter of Nature: Lv0] PICKED

[Spiritual Shield: Lv0]

[Plant Companion: Lv0] PICKED

[Nature's Rage: Lv0]

[INT UP: Lv0]

[WIS UP: Lv0]

[MP UP: Lv0]

[Skill Tree: Farmer]

[Tame: Lv0] PICKED

[Cooking: Lv0] PICKED

[Brewing: Lv0]

[Crafting: Lv0]

[Sewing: Lv0]

[Fishing: Lv0] PICKED

[Alchemy: Lv0]

[Robust Body: Lv0]

[Farm Animal Companion: Lv0] PICKED

[Farming Tools Usage: Lv0]

[Terrain Adaptability: Lv0]

[Soil Manipulation: Lv0]

[DEX UP: Lv0]

[HP UP: Lv0]

I could pretty much pick anything I wanted, or all of them! But I have now begun to understand why there was a Skill Restriction of 10 and 10. If people were allowed to wield more than 10 Skills of Race and Job Class, it would be a bit too much. I didn't know if they were allowed to use more when evolving or Changing Job Class though.

"Can we equip more Skills by Evolving or Changing Job Class?" I wondered. The Guide Spirit answered me rather swiftly, coming out with a clever answer.

"D-Do you actually think the developers would allow you to do that?! Ten slots for both are good enough!" he said. "If you players were allowed to wield more Skills than these limits, you would become way too overpowered and there wouldn't be much of a challenge in the game... You could switch skills as much as you want to prepare for any situation, so it is nothing too hard. Like changing equipment I guess."

"Oh, I guess it would be a bit broken if we were given a lot of Skill Slots..." I said while giggling.

"Your Skill Tree keeps expanding with each evolution and job class change too, so these won't be the only Skills you'll ever have available. Make sure to choose wisely what to spend your Skill Points on! You can't spend them all into buying Skills, saving for Leveling them is also important."

"Okay, okay, I get it. I will only get three Skills this time."

Ding!

[You have exchanged 6 Skill Points]

[You learned the [Spirit Magic: Lv1], [Spiritual Shield: Lv1], and [Robust Body: Lv1] Skills!]

[You exchanged 10 Skill Points]

[The [Photosynthesis: Lv1], [Green Magic: Lv2], [Life Drain: Lv1], [Cooking: Lv1], and [Fishing: Lv1] Skills Levels have increased by one!]

[The [Green Magic: Lv3] Skill has unlocked three new Spells: [Plant Whisper], [Recovery Antidote Sap], and [Tracking]!]

And done! I got a bunch of new stuff to check out, and I get some sort of fun by always looking at it, so time to check out everything in detail! First of all, I decided to learn these three new Skills because they sounded pretty interesting. I have not spoiled myself about Skills in the Game's Wiki Page or Fandom Page, so I was just going blind into the game for the best experience, but these three skills piqued my interest.

[Spirit Magic: Lv1]

The Magic that only special Races connected to the elements and nature can conjure. It is a special Magic that calls forth the power of Elemental Spirits. To summon Elemental Spirits, the player must be closer to a Dragon Veins and conjure the magic. Depending on the Spells, Spirits can go with the Player or only work once with them.

Each Spirit has a different personality and not all of them might like to be with you, others might not even hear your call if your heart is not pure enough. Make sure to always be polite with Spirits, they're giving you a favor, not the other way around.

Available Spells:

Level 1: [Dragon Vein Detection], [Land Spirit Call], [Spirit Enhancement]

This was a very interesting Magic! So it only worked in certain areas of the world? It was more like a Geomancer, right? I remembered my husband used to play that Class once in a Final Fantasy MMO... But sadly all these old MMO got suspended after the Full Dive VR boom, so all those memories were gone... Well, at least this Skill was similar to that? It could conjure spells only in certain areas... Let's see the spells' details as well.

[Dragon Vein Detection]

Cost: 10 MP For every Dragon Vein Detected.

Cooldown: 10 Minutes.

Channel the spiritual power within you and detect various Dragon Veins across the map. After Conjunction, you're able to accurately detect Dragon Veins within 20 Meters around you. Dragon Veins appear all over the world and can be of many elements.

[Land Spirit Call]

Cost: 200 MP/400 MP/500 MP

Cooldown: 5 Minutes

Channel the spiritual power within you and humbly call upon the help of the Land Spirits, who surge from Earth-type Dragon Veins to aid you in battle. They can emerge in three variations: [Small Rocky], [Boulder Golem], and [Land Titan] randomly.

[Spirit Enhancement]

Cost: 200 MP

Cooldown: 5 Minutes

Utilize your connection with spiritual energies and enhance your affinity with spirits temporarily, while also enhancing the power of all Spirits you've summoned for battle or support by +20%.

Looking at all these three Spells, I was left surprised and rather fascinated by the intricate mechanics of this Magic, it sounded so fun! I was going to use it tomorrow to help us out! Apparently, I could just detect "Dragon Veins" and from them, I could summon different spirits. It said that there were many elemental spirits but the only ones I could summon for now were Land Spirits. And now, the other two Skills were also pretty useful.

[Spiritual Shield: Lv1]

Call forth the power of the spirits dwelling in Nature to generate a powerful Spiritual Shield around you, which can block up to 20% of all Damage taken in

exchange for MP. This acts as a Passive Skill that can be turned on and off, and the cost of MP varies depending on the damage taken. Increase the Level of the Skill to reduce more Damage.

This was a very simple Skill but one that would come in handy for me! It was pretty much my own version of the magician's Mana Shield Skills, which allowed them to have a shield at all times that decreased damage taken in exchange for their MP. It seemed to be pretty useful, so I was going to use it whenever there was a big fight to come so I didn't have to run away as much!

[Robust Body: Lv1]

As a Farmer your body has to exercise in the fields and constantly move to maintain your Farm at all times, due to this, your body naturally grows stronger and capable of harboring larger quantities of Stamina. HP, STR, and VIT are increased by +10%, and your Satiation Meter depletes at half the speed.

This was amazing! With this, my satiation wouldn't go down so easily and I could do more stuff like Fishing, Cooking, and in the near future, settling up a farm and farming! And it also enhanced HP, STR, and VIT... I didn't know how much I would be using STR, but that's still a useful stat for stuff like Fishing because you needed a lot of physical strength for that one.

With all these Skills, I was left more than satisfied for now. After checking them out, I decided to rest for the rest of the night and log out.

"See you tomorrow, Acorn, please take care, alright?" I said, as I petted his little squirrel head.

"Sure thing, Lady Planta! Please sleep well!" he said.

"Thank you, sleep well too," I said.

As I was about to log out, I suddenly remembered something.

"Wait! Guide, could you find a player named Dark Reaper? The user is a female and close to Level 200..." I said.

"Huh? What with that out of nowhere? But sure... I can. Erm, there are over fifty people with name variations of "Dark Reaper", they just add numbers or letters at the end or beginning... Oh, there's a guy named

XxXxDarkReaperXxX... I guess that's not her. Is this the name of your daughter? She really chose an unoriginal one."

"Please don't criticize my beloved princess' naming options and just search for her..."

"O-Okay..."

Chapter 27: Seeking Elena's Player Avatar

I had just asked the guide spirit to find my daughter through the player search function, which allowed anyone to search for players through their names. It was an easy way to add someone as a friend without always having to be in person with them, I believe. It was simple to use but guide spirits seemed to be special assist A.I.s made exclusive to help you do all these things for you, so I just let him do it for me instead. He was amazingly fast at searching and more, so he found what I wanted right away, but there were a lot of people called Dark Reaper with many variations, it seemed to not be an original name.

Why did my daughter just choose such a weirdly common name? She should have chosen something more specific and rarer! I mean, amongst the entire server there was nobody called Planta, actually! I guess there were not that many Spanish players? Well, even Spanish players would think that "Planta" was a dumb name so yeah... Maybe she wanted to sound cooler.

"Let's see... There are many players with a name like this, it is insane... However, if we use the filters you said, such as a female character and being near level 200... Um, I guess the number goes down tremendously, despite what you may think, there are a lot of casual players that never reach that high of a level, or take a long time leveling, so those close to 200 are not everybody... But there is a good chunk, however, if we filter it by females there are... Oh wow, that's surprisingly short!" he said.

"H-How many?" I wondered.

"Three people left! There is DarkReaper2015, DarkReaper678, and DarkReaper2.0... These are all Female characters with a level close to 200... The first one is an... an Oni with the Samurai Job Class, a Human with the Assassin Job Class, and lastly a Moon Elf with the Necromancer Job Class..."

There's a lot! Okay now, you have to choose who, or we could just send a message to all three," he said.

"No, no! Wait... If I even send a message, what can I even send? I cannot just go and say: "Hello my dearest daughter!" or something! I am supposed to not reveal my identity! I need to find a way to contact them, know who's my daughter, and then befriend them and get closer to them all while not revealing I am my daughter's mother infiltrating in a game for her sake!" I said.

"Damn it, you're really so annoying with this stuff... Okay, then what do we do?" he wondered.

"People in this game resemble their real life appearances, right? Is it due to the scan thing?" I asked.

"Mildly, but the race can change the appearance a lot, a simple beard can make someone unrecognizable sometimes, or having a different skin color and horns, or for example, you're covered in leaves all over your body for example," said the guide. "Nonetheless, do you think you can recognize her based on appearance alone?"

"Yes! Is there a way to see their appearance?" I wondered.

"Well, this game has a thing called Ranker Live, which is an option for people to do Live Actions while playing, all these three players are high leveled players that do Ranker Lives showcasing their bossing and mobbing while leveling up and gaining more power," said the guide.

"Bossing and mobbing? W-What is that?" I wondered.

"This game has special monsters named Bosses, you already fought one, right? They're super strong and there are certain areas of the world map where these bosses spawn every few days after dying, so people can go proactively to kill them and gain more drops from them, slowly accumulating them. They have chances to drop amazing crafting items, give good EXP, and more, so every player at high level goes "bossing" every week, and it is one of the end goals of the game to be able to defeat some of these bosses to gain loot," said the guide. "Mobbing refers to grinding, the act of killing a lot of normal monsters that players refer as mobs. Players work towards the ability to kill many monsters at the same time and go to special areas infected with miasma and dark energies where monsters spawn at insane rates to gain more EXP and Gold."

"I-I see... That's a bit complicated, do people have so much time to do this?" I wondered.

"Hardcore Players dedicated their lives to games, they usually have ways to make money out of the game through selling items themselves and more," said the guide. "Also, there are several functions that work like real life pages, Ranker Live is a System function that serves like Youtube or Twitch, people in the game show livestreams of them playing, the more people watch, the more views they get and the more ads the game developers can show to people, earning money out of it, which is given to the live streamers as well, well, only a little part of it, but that's enough to make a living."

"So that's how it is! That's pretty interesting... Is there any other ways to earn money through it?" I wondered.

"There is also the subscriber options and membership options, to subscribe to someone you really like, you can do it for free and always get notifications when they start doing something, and the membership option is people that use either large quantities of Gold or real life money to pay someone every month to get some benefits, such as special chat emojis, or even being able to contact the player personally and become their friends!" he said. "There's a lot of fanservice involved."

"C-Can I become a Live streamer then? It would be fun and I can make money out of it!" I said. "My dream is making money out of the game so I don't have to work so much every week..."

"Hm, well nobody watches newbies, so I doubt it will help." He sighed. "But you could try? Anyways, these three DarkReaper Players all have their own Ranker Live Channels, so let's take a look at their latest video and let's see their faces."

And like that, the guide showed me a few videos of the three girls, they were all playing the game rather interestingly, the first one to see was DarkReaper2.0, who was a Moon Elf, a purple-skinned girl with sharp and long ears and long silvery-white hair, her appearance was like that of an adult woman in her late twenties to early thirties, so she was certainly not my daughter, she was soloing a giant Boss resembling a scorpion in the middle of an arid desert, wow. And she actually beat it at the end by using her abilities as a Necromancer. She attacked the boss with all sorts of Undead summons until it died.

Secondly, Reaper678 was a Human girl, she was the one that looked the most like her real life probably, but she had long pink hair and was wearing tight black clothes over her body, she was using her two daggers as her only weapons, which seemed to be infused with large quantities of dark energies. And she used them to slash hundreds of monsters by running over a volcanic land, the enormous golems made of lava dropped dead into pieces as she ran around with her daggers, it was a spectacle to behold...

So these were high level players, they're just completely different, aren't they? And well, her appearance was not like my daughter, she looked like someone Asian, although Asian women usually look younger than they are, she certainly didn't look like my daughter.

And lastly, my only last hope, there was a "Rising star" Ranker that had become high level incredibly quickly, in just a few months after starting her new account, she had reached Level 190 already, and was slowly getting to level 200 already. This girl was dark, blue-skinned Oni, with a big vertically positioned red eye in the middle of her forehead, and two long and blue-colored horns coming out of her forehead, around the vertical red eye...

She was quite tall, and slim as well, and she wore beautiful samurai armor that was crafted using various materials dropped only by Boss monsters, she also wielded a powerful katana that was able to unleash blue flames for incredibly powerful slashing attacks, she was an amazing player that fought incredibly well, and she even had a friend with her most of the time, that could summon a Phoenix—Wait, she looked a lot like my daughter, if we took away the skin color, horns and that third eye!

"T-That's my daughter! I know she's her!" I said.

"Incredible, the discerning power of a mother knows no limits..." said the guide.

"Fufu, of course! A mother has to always know and recognize her daughter no matter what!" I said pridefully.

"I see, well, as you can see, well, this girl is amazing though, she already surpassed the Million Subscriber mark in just like three months since she started? And she got around two hundred thousand membership users that are all simping for her. Your daughter has an awful lot of fans! And they're all creeps," said the guide.

"Ugh... So my daughter has become that type of person now? O-Oh well, it is not so bad! R-Right?" I wondered.

"Y-Yeeaaaah... Anyways, she's earning an awful lot of money, does she tell you this?" He wondered.

"No! She hasn't told me anything like that yet! It is a bit dangerous for a girl her age, at only almost 16 years of age to go around with an awful amount of money... But she doesn't seem to be spending it around on weird things or wasting it either, she's probably saving it, she hasn't even told me about it though, maybe because she could think I would disapprove of this as a career..." I sighed. "Well, maybe she's saving for her future, I believe my daughter is mature enough for that."

"Wow, did you just figure out all her mind and thought process in just a few seconds? Mothers are really incredible!" said the guide.

"Yeah, I know my girl more than anybody in the world," I said. "I know how she is, despite showing a cold expression and exterior, she's a sweet girl that's also very intelligent and mature."

"I see, well, how are you planning to get closer to someone so popular in-game? I am pretty sure she got so many fans that she has her DM's disabled," said the guide.

"Well, let's try sending her a message..." I said.

I quickly wrote something down.

[Hello! My name is Planta, I am a Dryad/Farmer newbie that just started playing, I wish I could have a high level ranker player to be my coach or something! Would you accept me as your friend?]

It was simple but it had some charm to it, so I sent it to her.

And then...

Ding!

[This Player had disabled Direct Messages from non-friend Players]

D-Damn it.

Then I'll send her a friend request!

Ding!

[This Player has disabled Friend Requests from Players below Level 170 Range or that are not related to an already added Friend]

You've gotta be kidding me! What was this?! Elena! Why would you be such an asocial person to do something like this to your mama?! This was awful! Why?! Ugh! Agh... Ahh... Sigh.

I looked into the video, seeing Elena and her friend Anna beating down a powerful boss in the shape of a giant wolf made of darkness named Fenrir, the two girls were demolishing it until nothing was left out but materials...

"Sigh... I guess I am going to have to do it the hard way. I'll try to find another way, somehow... But how though?" I sighed.

"Hmm... Well, you could try being a Live Streamer, if you get popular enough, she might try to befriend you," said the guide.

"Oh! Good idea! Seems more doable than just leveling all the way to 170!"

Chapter 28: Waking Up Late

After I decided that I'd become a Ranker Live Streamer even at a low level, I chose to go back home and logged out. I slowly took out the helmet from my head and suddenly realized it was around 11 PM and I had yet to even eat! I was so hungry... Help!

I quickly ran to the kitchen and made myself a quick meal, some instant ramen was not bad at all, there was this delicious chicken soup flavor, and I'd also make two toasts and a tea to go with it. I liked dipping the toast in the soup after all...

While the water boiled, I went to take a look at my daughter. She was such an important and amazingly influential figure in the game but here she was just a silent and shy girl, it was a big contrast with reality! Well, while all those people were dying to talk to her, I was here and I could talk to her as much as I want as her mother, hehehe!

I opened the door and found my daughter and Anna who had stopped playing the game and had the headset out. The two were lazing over the bed while snacking on several open bags with salty snacks while drinking very sweet soda and watching some Anime about a reincarnated caterpillar or something... It was similar to the spider anime I saw years ago, but this one was a caterpillar that evolved into a Fairy named... Kire... Kirenne or something.

These types of Isekai Anime were still the boom for youngsters these days, especially those that went hardcore into game-like worlds with skills, leveling, and other things included, this one had all of that and more. The main character constantly gained skills as she devoured things, and then fused the skills and chaos ensued afterwards... she evolved constantly. This was season three of the anime and now she's a goddess or something? Well, that escalated quickly.

"Hello girls... Sigh, you're eating a bit too much of that, how about eating something for dinner instead?" I wondered. "Want some ramen?"

"Ramen is filled with the same processed stuff as these snacks..." said my daughter. "There's little difference. But I prefer snacks."

"Don't worry about us, Lady Elayne, we are good," said Anna.

"A-Alright then, don't stay up until too late, okay?" I sighed, as I entered the room and kissed my daughter on her forehead and then walked away.

The girls just wanted their own space so it would be rude to constantly meddle with them and annoy them more than enough. They were pretty distracted watching that series, so I left them on their own for now.

I went to make the ramen and the toasts were also done, so I grabbed everything and placed it over the silver plate, and walked back to my large room. I placed them over my bed and turned on the TV. I decided to watch some more of these Ranker Live videos to see how they were.

There were a lot of videos of them just hunting monsters or looking for specific crafting items that people requested of them to show the monsters that dropped them. I continued checking my daughter's videos, they were quite interesting, and gave me a nice amount of insight about how she fought and all. It seemed that she had two more friends that were often with the two as well, a guy with red armor holding a giant axe and shield, and a mature-

looking woman, resembling to be in her mid-thirties who had long blonde hair and seemed to be human race, she was some sort of elemental magician.

When I finished eating, I decided to leave the things in the kitchen and then walked back to my room to prepare for bed. I stepped into the bathroom to brush my teeth, and once I was done, I headed over to bed and snuggled into my blankets while I continued to watch videos.

I searched for cooking, crafting, and other things that people could be doing in their streams. There were a few people showing cooking in-game, but there were barely a few compared to the Rankers, and their audience was very niche at best... Fishing was even worse, almost nobody did it.

And then I searched for videos about farming, and... there was absolutely nothing?! Nobody was farming! Well, not even I was farming yet... I should get to do that after I was finished with the Squirrel quest, the Tree of Beginnings should cut me some slack hopefully... I'd try to get the entire quest done tomorrow. There were some materials left to obtain but with my new powers and skills, it shouldn't be so hard...

Maybe I could live stream about farming? If nobody was doing it, I would be the pioneer... after all, Farmer was a new Job Class introduced this last patch, and old players were not willing to delete their previous characters just to play a boring all-rounder Job Class, and most new players searched for guides about "best race and job class combinations for bossing and mobbing" so they're never interested in the rest of the game's mechanics such as farming, cooking, fishing, and so on.

Well, this game's main selling point was the realism of the NPC, the enormous world to explore, and all the little details everywhere, it is a game where you could literally have a second life, but people just treat it as another MMORPG where you have to just obsessively level up and get stronger so other people could praise you for being so amazing and get the fulfillment of being strong, something that we could really achieve in this boring real life.

Oh well, I would try my best, even if I got like one or two viewers, I'd be happy with just that... I just wanted to have fun as well, although I also wanted to meet my daughter in-game... Hahh... Elena, why did you make it so hard to reach you through a game as well?

I ended up falling asleep while watching videos, and the TV turned off automatically when it realized I wasn't looking at it anymore...

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DING! DING!

"UWAH!"

When I woke up, it was already the next day, and the alarm worked pretty well because it woke me up right away... And now, I was awake. What should I do? Ah... I was so sleepy. I looked around the room and found that the sunlight was slowly pouring in from the window. I looked outside the window for a bit, and idly watched the people walk through the streets and the sun that had risen into the clear sky. It was a pretty beautiful day, I could go out for a bit, although despite how beautiful it was, the temperatures were very low and the snow was still there, so it might not be the best either... And I was more of a stay home mom.

I decided to see if my daughter and her friend were awake, it was around 7 AM so I assumed that they wouldn't, and yeah, I found the two sleeping leisurely over the bed. Aw, they're so cute... I looked back at the kitchen and decided that I wasn't that hungry, so I decided to go back to sleep, it was Sunday so why the heck am I waking up so early? I'll just slack off some more.

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When I woke up again, it was around 1 PM! Uwah! I didn't mean to sleep THAT much! I rushed to the bathroom and took a warm bath to refresh myself, and then, I decided to cook some breakfast. I found my daughter and Anna STILL sleeping, I assumed they were most likely playing until like 5 AM or something... I was glad they're not skipping sleep but it was still bad that they played until it was so late, especially full dive that made the mind so exhausted after playing for a while. I doubt I would be able to play so much without the breaks I took, it was certainly taxing for the mind to play so much.

Those players that played all day must be experiencing a lot of headaches, they should take some days off if possible... Oh, well, the game had so many things happening all the time, it was hard to skip a single day. I didn't even know what I would do through the week now that I really wanted to continue

playing anyways... Tomorrow I was going to be busy from the morning until like 7 PM, so I wouldn't be able to play as much... Damn it. My work was fine and all, but I wish I could just leave it and live from another source leisurely...

Despite being a hard worker, I was internally a very lazy woman... I guess this was because my husband spoiled me too much, but I had to keep working for my daughter—Ah, well, she was making some money out of the game already... But even then, it was probably not that much, and it didn't mean I would suddenly ask her to support her mother, that would be way too awful and embarrassing!

In the end, I decided to walk outside to the mini market where I work to buy a few other things I forgot yesterday, amongst them, I needed more sugar and salt, I didn't have any. And asking my neighbor for it would be weird, I didn't think that he would give me anything, and might even not open the door for me. People nowadays didn't like other people pestering their lives.

"Ah, welcome, Elayne, how are you doing?"

Jenny greeted me today, she was as cute as ever. This black-haired girl was around her 18's, and she had a very youthful and adorable face. I guess she kept her child's face even after reaching 18... She was also the youngest working here, and a friend of Mark. I think Mark was interested in her.

"Hello Jenny, I'm doing fine... I think I overslept. I woke up around 7 AM but ended up going to sleep again because it was Sunday, but then I woke up and it was 1 PM!" I said.

"Hahaha! I sometimes sleep until like 3 PM, don't worry." She laughed.

"R-Really? You might have a bit of a problem with your sleep schedule..." I said worriedly.

"Nah, I'm fine, no worries," she said.

I quickly went to pick the sugar and salt, and also decided to buy myself some snacks because these girls couldn't just keep eating all they wanted while I didn't enjoy life either! So I decided to pick some cookies covered with chocolate and... another one with strawberry jam filling, they're small packs with ten each, but that was enough for me. I really liked cookies. I also bought a cold green tea and a cold milk coffee bottle too, so I could have some refreshers while playing.

See? I could also load myself with some gamer food! Although mine was way lighter than what the girls eat, I really didn't like these overly sweet sodas, they made me have headaches and increased my blood pressure way too much... My family had hereditary diabetes after all, my daughter at the very least only ate this much like once or twice a month, the rest of the month she eats quite healthy... I think.

"And there you go... That's it then," said Jenny, as I used my debit card to pay for the things.

"Anyways, Jenny, have you seen Mark?" I wondered.

"He takes the weekend off; he was just here yesterday because he forgot to do some things," said Jenny. "What? Looking for him?"

"Ah... N-No! It is not like that..." I sighed. "I was just wondering!"

"So how did your lunch date go yesterday?" she asked. "Did you two had some lovely fun? Was the wine good?"

"Eeeeh?! Y-You knew?!" I asked in shock.

"Of course! I was here when you boldly invited him for lunch, just in the storage... But I heard everything!" she said with a smile.

Chapter 29: A Mother Is Worried About Her Daughter's Gaming Addicton

How did Jenny know about this?! Well, she just said she eavesdropped on what I did yesterday when she was in the storage! W-What was she doing this for though? Why was she teasing me like this? Was she jealous? Wait, did she like Mark and was jealous of what I did? T-There's a possibility...

"P-Please don't misunderstand... I am an old woman, I am not going around doing this to young men, I just ended doing it on a whim without realizing..." I sighed. "Mark is just such a nice Boss, and he was just there and I was thinking about lunch, so I ended up inviting him..."

"Okay, okay, you don't have to worry, we can talk about this stuff all you want," said Jenny. "I know Mark a bit, I could tell you what he likes or what he doesn't like if you're interested. He's a pretty cool guy but he's terrible at making friends."

"Making friends?" I wondered. "Really?"

"Yeah he's not that good with the ladies either." She sighed. "Though to be honest there were a lot of women in here that used to be interested in getting a raise and they thought that he would give it to them if they seduced him, some had even tried to bring him to bed just to get a raise... He ended up firing them all, of course."

"Well, that's a bit harsh..." I sighed. "I-Is he okay with this?"

"That was some time ago, now he's comfortable with us," said Jenny. "I am only interested in getting paid and getting to drink soda and eat snacks—D-Don't tell him I am doing it behind his back."

"I won't say a thing but if he asks me, I will tell him the truth," I said.

"Ahh... Well, I guess you're way too honest," she said.

"Well, now... I-I am going out for now, see you tomorrow, Jenny."

"Sure."

I walked outside since I didn't want to extend this awkward conversation. I really just wanted to go back home and play the game for now, so I swiftly moved to my home and then decided to make a simple breakfast. Toasts with butter, some scrambled eggs, bacon, and coffee.

The girls were lured by the scent of the delicious breakfast, and quickly flew in the dining room like flies, sitting on the chairs almost immediately. I was a bit shocked, I really thought they would just eat and drink their snacks and soda, but I guess a mother's breakfast was irresistible!

"Hehe, I see you're back for more mommy's breakfast?" I said. "Ah, right, I wanted to tell you girls something... Well, more like ask you something... How long did you play the game last night?"

"..."

"Erm..."

My daughter fell silent and her mouth suddenly looked as if it got shut very tightly, her eyes looked a bit alarmed, she didn't want to tell me, and she was already bad at speaking but now she turned even worse, she probably didn't even know what to say.

Meanwhile, Anna was smiling nervously at me as if trying to find some way to say it without being blunt. I already knew that they played until morning, but they really should turn it down for now, sleeping until so late was very bad for their health! Of course, the girls wouldn't listen to me anyways, but as a mother, it was my duty to ask them to stop, if possible.

"Well, I played until... 1 AM?" said my daughter.

"Agh... Come on, don't lie to your mom." Sighed Anna. "W-We played until 5 AM..."

"EEEEH?! That's way too much! I have been recently researching about this Full Dive technology, there are many cases of people that play too much and end up with headaches and some even suffer emotional distress... It is recommended to only play at most 6 hours a day, but you girls clearly played over ten hours..." I sighed. "It is important to also take breaks in between hours of playthrough! Are you still playing the game for fun anymore? If you get obsessed with stuff like leveling, you're just not enjoying the game well enough... they say it is like a second life, you have to experience other things than stressfully killing monsters."

"Ah... W-Well...Maybe..." said Anna.

"I did get a headache after playing..." Sighed my daughter. "We'll play less today. Also we have school tomorrow so we can't stay until it's too late."

"Good girl," I said. "See? Listening to mama is always important."

"..."

Elena seemed as expressionless as ever, but she then ate her breakfast rather happily. I really thought she would defend her game stupidly, but she's very smart and realized the game was a bad obsession sometimes, she played for too long and got a headache when she took out the helmet... That

probably meant that it really was as I said, and not just some speculative rumor made by people that think that games are bad or something.

She also knew I was not ignorant in terms of games, I was not a mere "boomer" as I was born in the era where games were commonplace everywhere. That age where 'since I was a baby, my parents gave me a phone to play phone games or watch Youtube videos!' era... So I was a modern mom, as they say!

Well, actually I was not that modern, I was over 30... And I wasn't completely raised with a phone either, I only got mine when I was around 14? Truth be told, my husband was the one that helped me get accustomed to all of this, he was the one obsessed with games.

Sigh. I miss him.

Ah...

A-Anyways, I shouldn't think about it so much, it only made me sad.

"How's the breakfast? Good?" I asked.

"Yeah, it's nice," said Anna. "Are you inviting that guy today as well, Lady Elayne?"

"Oh, no, Mark isn't coming today, that was a one-time thing! N-Not for every day..." I sighed.

"Oooh. I thought he was like your boyfriend or something... You two spoke so lovingly while drinking wine..." she said. "Kyaa, it was so cute!"

"W-What?! B-Boyfriends?! With M-M-Mark?!" I asked in disbelief. Anna was way too free with what she said sometimes! She really should limit herself a bit. Sometimes she often spoke what was on her mind way too much for my liking!

My daughter looked at me with incredible contempt, as if she was waiting for me to say something regarding this, because it was obvious he wasn't my boyfriend... But her intense stare that seemed to peek into my very soul was very strong, it felt like she was getting angrier over it!

S-Seriously?! Why are you getting angry with your mommy? Sniff..

"H-He's not! He's not my boyfriend! Elena, don't look at me like that!" I said.
"Y-You know I only love your father, right?"

"...I haven't said anything."

"Sigh... Anna please refrain from talking about everything you have on your mind, okay?" I asked. "It is a bit rude, dear."

Anna looked back at Elena with a bit of fear as well, the dark aura my daughter emanated was certainly not normal! Her stare was so intense it felt like the Oni avatar she had suddenly transferred to her real life body and gave her the same intimidating factor or something... Ugeh.

"Sorry! I am very sorry, I misunderstood..." she said.

"Sigh... That's fine, it's okay..." I said.

At the end we finished breakfast rather hurriedly, and then we all went our separate ways once more. My daughter and Anna went back to her room to play a bit more of the game, and funnily enough, I was going to do the same thing!

Also Anna had to leave after dinner, so I'd bring her home with my daughter because I didn't like the idea of two girls walking alone in the night, it was rather dangerous. I wish I had a car but I had to sell it back then when we needed money... Maybe one day I'd be able to save enough money for a cheap car? Although I was saving all my money for my daughter's college.

I moved back to my room and decided to log in back to the game, today I wanted to start off early and work into the game's quest, I kind of want to finish it today if possible! Can we pull it out? With my new Skills and magic, perhaps I should have better fighting capabilities against Dark Beasts. I also got Loki and Belle to assist me—oh right, and of course Acorn, his potions were pretty amazing, his explosive one's deal damage and then the healing ones for support, even Alchemist are competent fighters in this game, this just shows how much dedication and time the developers put into it!

I moved into the game and logged in, finding myself inside of Acorn's room once more. I looked around and he was not here, was he awake? I walked outside while calling for his name, and sensed him inside of his grandpa's house.

"Acorn! Are you there?"

I entered the house and found Acorn taking care of his grandfather. He gave him a small green-colored potion that alleviated the pain of the disease.

"Ah, Planta! You're back, glad to see you," he said.

"Oh! Spirit Lady!" said the chief.

"Hello, how is the chief doing?" I wondered.

"He's fine for now, but the disease is still there... We have to hurry and make the antidote soon." Sighed Acorn.

Here's the list as of now:

[Dark Essence]: 5/10

[Black Core]: 5/10

[Morning Flower Dew]: 0/5

[Spiky Purple Mushroom]: 5/5

[Leaf of Youth]: 0/5

[Golden Sap]: 5/5

"We still need five Dark Essence, Black Cores, Morning Flower Dew, and Leaf of Youth... Hm, I know a route so we can get the Morning Flower Dew and Leaf of Youth quickly, but the Black Core and Dark Essences are a bit tricky, the Dark Beasts are wandering the entire forest so it's hard to pick them up, they're better at surprising you when you least expect it!" said Acorn.

"I agree, we never find them around when we walk, but they show up when we least expect it to annoy us... That giant mushroom was really a handful... Oh right, I got an item out of it..." I said.

"Which item? A mushroom cap?" He wondered.

"Oh no... Look."

I took out a small glass orb from my Inventory, which had a bluish phantasmal essence inside, the figure of a mushroom sometimes would show up. This item was named the Mushroom King Soul, and I had no idea what I could use it for, but Acorn was an Apothecary, he's especially good at alchemy which used items to make other items, so he should know a way.

"Do you know anything that could be made with this?" I wondered.

"T-That's... a Summoner item!" he said.

"Summoner Item?" I asked.

"Well, I think it also works with any summoning-like Class, it helps them in choosing a Summon instead of making it random... You see, this is a Soul Orb, they're used by summoner-type Job Classes so they can use it as a catalyst and summon a monster based in the Orb."

"Oh wow..."

"Yeah, it is an interesting item, you're a summoner, right, Lady Planta? I think you can make something out of it!"

"Hmm... How though? Do I break it?"

"N-No! Don't break it or the soul will just fly away, you have to harbor your summoning powers into it, concentrate and infuse Mana into the item, it should activate automatically."

"That simple?!"

"Yeah, anyone with some Summon Skill can summon them as long as they get a Summon Slot."

"Summon Slot..."

The guide showed up at my side and stopped me from being disappointed after I tried to use the item once to no avail.

"Don't use it yet. It will not work and you may risk breaking it. You have your Summon Slots full, level up your Summoning Skills to get more slots..." he said.

Chapter 30: The Power Of Spirit Magic!

"Remember that every three levels you get a new summon? Well, you also get an empty summon slot for that new summon, but you can skip it and use a Soul Orb instead if you want to."

"Oooh! I see..." I said. "Is there another way to not skip a Summon though?"

"You're technically not skipping it; the Soul Orb will become that summon!"

Soul Orbs were an interesting in-game mechanic, they seem to be dropped by Boss-type monsters and it allowed a Summoner-type Job Class to be able to use it to summon the Boss as a Summon! Ah, that sounded a bit confusing, but it literally meant that you were using the soul of the boss and turning it into a summon. However, there were requirements.

The requirements were pretty basic though, you just need a free Summon Slot. Summoning Skills received a New Slot every 3 Levels, which also allowed you to summon a new random monster within the category of the Summoning Skill, but you could technically make that summon a fixed monster based on the Soul Orb of this Boss monster, amazing!

Maybe late-game summoners all have Boss Monsters as summons? That would be insanely good! But I guess they received some nerf to not be instantly as overpowered as the original ones, right? I would guess that's the case.

"However, there's more. There are certain Soul Orbs you can't use; each Summoning Skill has restrictions of what they can Summon. Summon Plant Companion can only summon Nature-type Monsters and Summon Farm Animal Companion can only summon Beast-type Monsters, remember that! If you get an Insect-type Soul Orb from a bug boss or something, you won't be able to summon it, in that case you could sell the Soul Orb to somebody else that could."

"I see... So that's how it works. I'll save it for now and think about summoning it later then," I said.

"That's a good idea, until your Summoning Skill levels up you won't have more Summon Slots." said Acorn.

I was surprised by how much the NPCs knew about the game mechanics, for them it must be as if they had always been living in a world like this... It felt like those Isekai with game-like elements in the entire world and not those single system ones that were always kind of boring.

"I-I see! Anyways, let's go on an adventure onwards to the next materials! I can't wait," I said.

"Yeah!"

"So where should we go first?" I wondered.

[Dark Essence]: 5/10

[Black Core]: 5/10

[Morning Flower Dew]: 0/5

[Spiky Purple Mushroom]: 5/5

[Leaf of Youth]: 0/5

[Golden Sap]: 5/5

We looked into the list once again.

"We should go to the Morning Flower Dew area, this dew is very tasty and sweet, and it is within an area named Garden of Morning Flowers, they are only available up until 2 PM! So we have to hurry or we'll have to wait until tomorrow morning to extract... I haven't gone alone there because the path to this Garden is pestered with dangerous monsters, there are small Dead Wood Golems, lots of Poisonous Walking Mushrooms, and also a lot of Vengeful Crows that attack anyone that get into their territory, so I'll need your help and that of your summons," he said.

"Sure thing! Let's get there immediately then... I have already grown a bit more, so I think I can kill monsters... M-More easily I suppose. As long as I think this is not... real." I sighed.

"Real?" He raised an eyebrow. "Oh well the monsters turn into particles of light so don't feel so scared, the items dropped can be handled with care afterwards."

Acorn didn't really understand what I meant, and that's for the best, the Guide said that NPC were not aware that this was a game, nor that Players are Players, they call us Travelers at most, and just think we have special abilities that let us log out.

Even if players tried to talk to an NPC about players and the game, they would not understand and just treat you as someone crazy, which would lower your closeness with them, so it was better to just not say anything regarding that to them to not bother them with things they'll never be able to truly understand... I think they're programmed to reject the truth somehow and find it unrealistic.

We quickly descended from the trees and walked into the forest floor then jumped over Belle. She quickly led us through the vast Forest of Beginnings, it was a beautiful place, always with big trees and wondrous vegetation at every corner. There were small butterflies of many colors flying around the flowers below the trees, and we also found some mushrooms growing from them.

There were a lot of items that could be Gathered, but for that I needed the time, and we didn't have time to go leisurely picking up special medicinal flowers or mushrooms when our mission was to save the squirrel folk from death.

The road was simple and we had to just cross a small river to reach a wondrous garden made of yellow-gold flowers. These were the beautiful Morning Flowers, they only blossomed from 5 AM to 2 PM according to Acorn, and it was already 1:37 PM! We had to hurry and pick them up, we can extract the dew out of them easily, right?

"Let's pick up some flowers!" I said, as I jumped out of Belle.

"W-Wait, don't!" He said.

"Eh? What's wrong?" I wondered.

"GRUOOH!"

The moment I tried to step into the Garden, several beings that were completely still and camouflaging as dead wood on the floor began to move! They suddenly stood up, reaching almost two meters! T-These were Dead Wood Golems, right? The small ones, right?

Why are they so tall though?!

"GRUUOOOH!"

The Golems quickly began to stand up one after the other, there were 6 of them, and they were all 2 meters tall, made out of dead wood, these golems had literal log-like arms and legs, strong enough to crush anything below their height with ease! And they had a single red light in the middle of their chests, which shone eerily.

"D-Damn it! Those are the Dead Wood Golems, they stand here in silence and only attack if we get closer to the Garden. I was planning on attacking them while they rest so we can get an advantage... I guess we won't." Sighed Acorn.

"You should have told me that beforehand, Acorn!" I cried.

BOOOM!

"Aaagh!"

One of the Golems nearby suddenly extended his arm incredibly long, punching me with it and sending me flying through the air.

CLASH!

"Uaggh... Ouch... That hurt a bit..."

I was literally punched by a giant log! How wacky was that? And my HP... It went down by over 50%! Agh, and that was thanks to the Spiritual Shield, if I didn't have that active, I would have been probably one-shotted! Dryads were very fragile...

"Planta!"

Acorn moved to my side and suddenly took out a green potion to give to me, I quickly drank it, knowing I had my own HP and MP Potions, but those were way too unique to waste them away, I planned on asking Acorn to replicate them or use them as materials to make even more of these smaller potions for convenience's sake... But for now, I'll drink his green potions.

I suddenly recovered around 25% of my HP back with that single little potion, as I gasped for air. The rest of my HP and MP were regenerating at a fast pace, with dozens of points per second thanks to my passive skills boosting

my regeneration while being in a forest, so it's all good in that regard! I just had to fight now.

The Dead Wood Golems were slow, but they had the power of extending their log arms up to double their original length, making them able to pick up things from far away and hit me so hard like they did back then. Because of that, we have to keep our distance from them- Wait, Belle!

"MEEEE!"

Belle was furious! Her eyes suddenly turned red-colored, as she exuded a deadly red aura from within. She wasn't able to fight the mushroom before because it was always releasing poison and she would die if she got closer, but these Golems were tough nuts to crack, but not poisonous!

However, I was worried, she's too reckless!

"Wow, Belle got angry!" said Acorn.

"Damn it... Alright, Loki, support Belle and you two protect Acorn while he supports us from the back!" I said.

Loki seemed to understand as she began to laugh while showing her sharp teeth once more, her vines suddenly grew longer and longer, forming into deadly whips, while Belle's red aura activated, enhancing her power through the Berserk Mode Skill. Meanwhile, Acorn decided to stand by and gave potions while throwing out combustion potions to the faraway Dead Wood Golems. And as for me, I decided to do some Magic and use Spirit Magic!

"I'll Summon a Land Spirit, wait for me! Dragon Vein Detection!"

FLAAAASH!

I activated Dragon Vein Detection, as I felt as if my eyes shone brightly with golden light, suddenly, my sight changed and I was able to see things I wasn't able to see normally back then! I suddenly realized that everywhere in the map there were strange gatherings of energies on the floor, which connected to one another like veins in the floor...

These were the Dragon Veins! And that was not everything, these veins connected to one another and seemed to be interconnected endlessly, somehow it felt as if the spiritual energies flowing inside of them were like the

actual veins of the world itself... And that didn't end there, these veins were of all colors!

Red, green, blue, yellow, white, gray, black, brown, purple, and more...! But I could only summon Land Spirits from Earth-type Dragon Veins, those brown-colored ones! I quickly activated the Land Spirit Call Spell, as the requirement to use it was to ask the spirits to come here to aid me, I had to be humble...

"Land Spirits, please, I beg for your help!"

Just after dropping those words, the energies within the entire area began to gather within the Earth-type Dragon Veins, as this energy gathered in a single place, it then started to materialize into several creatures, there were 4 Earth-type Dragon Veins near the Dead Wood Golems, and all of them summoned a different Spirit.

The first ones to emerge were small spirits resembling one-meter-big brown rocks with little legs and empty sockets as eyes engraved in the rocks. These small spirits emanated a strong aura even though they were small! Around two of them showed up, and then a bigger one showed up, they were like these small rocky fellows, but they were way bigger, reaching almost two meters of height, and being very strong and resilient looking! I think these small ones were "Small Rocky" while this big one was a "Boulder Golem"!

But that wasn't all, the fourth spirit I summoned was the biggest so far! It was... around 3 meters big! And it had a more defined body, it looked like a very muscular statue made out of stone, and seemed like a muscular man that was completely naked... That's a bit nsfw for this game for all ages!

"GRUUUUUOOOHH!"

The giant Land Spirit was the biggest, it was a Land Titan! Using the help of the other Land Spirit, the Land Titan began kicking and smacking the Dead Wood Golems into the ground, he was a meter bigger than all of them, and the golems immediately felt intimidated by him.

BOOOM!!!

His enormous fists clashed against a golem's chest, completely breaking it into pieces and throwing it down into the ground. The entire golem was splattered into many pieces of wood, which all suddenly turned into particles of light...

"W-Wow, that's amazing!" said Acorn.

Isn't this Magic a tad bit overpowered...?